DR. S. JOHN: All the surrounding places are kept free from wash water now. Good drinking water is pumped from a far away place and arrangements are being made for draining the surface water properly. Even now no harm is caused on account of such drainage. It is by contact leprosy spreads and not on account of water or air nearby.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know how many lepers are there in the hospital?

DR. S. JOHN: About 500.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: In answer to part (b) may I know if the public are prepared to contribute half the amount for the hospital, will the Government be pleased to open a dispensary open to the public within the Leper Colony?

PRESIDENT: For what purpose?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: In the Leper Colony there may be other persons who have to resort to a dispensary, and to such men a hospital will be useful.

PRESIDENT: Is that not very dangerous to the public if a dispensary is opened within the Leper Colony?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: I do not know from the technical point of view whether it is advisable to put up a dispensary; but I think there is need for that.

DR. S. JOHN: It is not at all advisable to open a dispensary within the Leper Colony because there is a possibility of mixing ordinary people with the lepers and thereby spreading the disease.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether there are any leper dispensaries conducted by Government other than Nooranad?

DR. S. JOHN: There are grant-in-aid hospitals for the treatment of lepers, one in South Travancore and another in the North. There are also various medicaments distributed in all the hospitals of the state for the treatment of lepers.

Cremation Ground at Vaikom.

177. *MR. V. MADHAVAN (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state;

(*a*) whether there is any public cremation ground at Vaikom; and

(*b*) whether they know where the ownerless dead bodies are disposed of by the hospital authorities?

DR. S. JOHN: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The ownerless dead bodies removed from the Vaikom Hospital are entrusted to coolies who bury them in an island-like ground on the other side of the back-water at a distance of about 4 miles from the hospital.

MR. V. MADHAVAN: May I know whether dead bodies are thrown into the Vembanad lake?

DR. S. JOHN: No, Sir.

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